

Environmental *Justice* news

A Newsletter from the EPA New England Environmental Justice Council



7th edition • March 2005

Celebrate Earth Day in Your Community

This year marks the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, and communities throughout New England are organizing events during the month of April designed to protect the planet.

Community-based environmental protection is a central goal of EPA New England's Environmental Justice Program, and this issue of *EJ News* features a variety of events being organized in communities throughout the region, maybe even in your hometown, that you can take part in. Several of the events featured in this article even have environmental justice themes, including the Earth Day Celebration at Common Ground High School in New Haven, Conn.; the Environmental Justice: Take Back Your Neighborhood Event in Salem, Mass.; and the 10th Annual Environmental Justice in the Hood Conference in Boston, Mass.

So why not get out and help out this Earth Day? Read on below for more information about Earth Day events in your state. Note that the EPA is not the sponsor of the events



Volunteers clean up the banks of Chelsea Creek on Earth Day 2003.

and activities being organized as part of this event, including guided forest hikes, a forest scavenger hunt, nature journal writing, farm and garden tours, seed and tree planting and recycled craft making, among others. An all-day environmental fair featuring displays, including one on environmental justice, will also take place. Contact Rebecca Holcombe at 203-389-4333 or rholcombe@nhep.com

Maine

Earth Day Clean Up Apr. 23 in Bangor

Help clean the litter away from the banks of the Penjajawoc Stream with Maine Audubon members and the Bangor Area Citizens Organized for Responsible Community Development. Wear hiking boots and work gloves, bring three big trash bags and show up at any of the following locations in Bangor: the end of Evergreen Woods Road off Mt. Hope Avenue; Borders or Hannafords at the
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described below and cannot verify the information provided.

Connecticut

Earth Day Celebration at Common Ground High School Apr. 27 in New Haven

Students in grades 1-6 are invited to Common Ground for a day of earth-centered education and celebration sponsored by the New Haven Ecology Project. Adult volunteers are also needed to run a variety of workshops

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Earthday cont.



EPA's Warren Howard and Stacey Johnson teach kids about watershed management at Common Ground High School's Earth Day celebration last year.

Bangor Mall; or 15 Young Street off State Street. Leaders will show you to where you can make a difference! Contact 207-989-2591.

Massachusetts

Environmental Justice: Take Back Your Neighborhood Event Apr. 4-15 in Salem

Salem State College and HealthLink are sponsoring several Earth Days this year with the overarching theme, "Environmental Justice: Take Back Your Neighborhood! An Educational Experience Linking Health and the Environment Through Activism, Research and Art." Activities being organized include an art exhibit, an Earth Day Family Program and a Going Green Open House. An all-day event at Salem State College on Apr. 11 includes an environmental career fair, environmental research poster competition and a panel session and group discussions focusing on environmental justice.

Contact Dr. Ana M. Echevarria-Morales at 978-542-6385 or ana.echevarria-morales@salemstate.edu

10th Annual Environmental Justice in the Hood Conference Apr. 30 in Boston

The Greater Boston Environmental Justice Network is hosting an all-day conference for teens and adults that focuses on environmental justice, especially transportation problems and solutions. The event is expected to draw residents and representatives of community organizations from Mattapan, Dorchester, Roxbury, Chelsea and East Boston, Mass., and other communities in the Greater Boston Area. Skills-building workshops will help participants learn fundraising techniques, identify environmental injustices and determine how best to work together to secure environmental improvements. Contact Tomas Aguilar at 617-442-3343 x229 or tomas@ace-ej.org

New Hampshire

First Annual Student Conservation Association-New Hampshire Park Americorp Earth Day Apr. 23 in Manchester

Volunteer to help with trash clean up and brushing of an old railroad track that is being restored to create a

walking and bike riding trail. Some volunteers may participate in a Manchester Pond Restoration Program. There will be music, kids activities and lunch for volunteers. Contact Jessica Finelt at 603-485-8400 or jessiepaige127@lycos.com

Rhode Island

Earth Day in Rhode Island Apr. 2 - May 5 in 36 cities and towns

This year's Earth Day in Rhode Island features more than a month of events and cleanup activities in 36 of the state's cities and towns. Find out when you can take part in your community's clean up at: www.state.ri.us/dem/earthday/cleanup.htm

You can also visit the Roger Williams Park Zoo for Conservation Week, during April school vacation week, Apr. 18-22, and for the Earth Day Festival on Saturday, Apr. 23. Conservation Week will introduce participants to various efforts to protect endangered species. The Earth

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HUD and EPA Settle Case Against Massachusetts-based Landlord—10,400 Apartments in Seven States and D.C. to Become Lead Safe

In one of the largest enforcement actions of its kind, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in November 2004 that a Boston-based real estate company agreed to remove lead paint hazards from approximately 10,400 apartments in seven states and the District of Columbia and pay a

monetary penalty. HUD and EPA claimed that the company failed to notify its tenants that their homes may contain potentially dangerous amounts of lead. The apartments that will be made lead-safe under this agreement are located in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California, New York, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Virginia and the District

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Lead Safe *cont.*

of Columbia. More than 7,000 apartments are located in Massachusetts alone (see list available at: www.epa.gov/NE/pr/2004/nov/dd041107.html)

WinnResidential Limited Partnership and its affiliates own and manage more than 235 housing projects across the country. The company agreed to pay a \$105,000 civil monetary penalty and further agreed to test for and clean up all existing lead-based paint hazards in its units. EPA estimates that the cost of lead abatement projects associated with this settlement are likely to be as high as \$3.7 million.

“This settlement should remind landlords that they have a legal responsibility to tell their tenants if their homes may harm their children,” said Miniard Culpepper, HUD’s Acting Regional Director for New England. “This agreement will not only create thousands of healthier homes, but will give families the peace of mind to raise their kids without fear of lead poisoning.”

In 2001, there were approximately 1,100 children in Boston alone with elevated blood lead levels. The

majority of cases are in the city’s lower-income, most diverse neighborhoods.

“Lead poisoning is a serious health threat for children in New England and around the country,” said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator for EPA’s New England office. “This agreement shows that those of us charged with protecting young children, and our most sensitive populations from lead poisoning, are serious about our jobs. We plan to continue to enforce lead disclosure



For more resources on lead, contact Molly Magoon, 617-918-1848 or magoon.molly@epa.gov

laws until we reach our goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning.”

“Despite the fact that so much can be done to keep kids safe from lead paint, too many are still poisoned in their own homes,” said Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly. “This agreement sets the standard for the property management industry and sends the message that, through collaboration, we can make significant strides to protect our children from harm.”

Since 2001, Reilly who has been working closely with HUD and EPA, as well as the state Department of Public Health, reached two agreements with Winn addressing environmental and civil rights issues. The first, filed by his Environmental Protection Division, mirrors the national settlement and requires the company to comply with the state’s lead law. The second, negotiated by the Attorney General’s Civil Rights Division, requires the company to put detailed policy and procedures in place to prevent discrimination against families with children under the age of six, who are most vulnerable to lead paint poisoning. ⌘

Maine Military Authority Agrees to Pay \$23,500 Penalty and Spend \$82,900 on Environmental Projects to Settle EPA Claims

In January, the Maine Military Authority (MMA), in Limestone, Maine, agreed to pay a \$23,500 penalty and spend an additional \$82,900 on two environmental projects to settle claims by the EPA that it violated clean air laws.

The violations cited in a June 2004 EPA complaint occurred at the Maine Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Center where the authority maintains, rebuilds, stores and paints vehicles and equipment for the U.S. Department of Defense. EPA cited

MMA for violations of Maine’s federally enforceable State Implementation Plan under the Clean Air Act. EPA found that the authority violated the Act when it failed to renew air emission licenses for nine boilers and two spray painting booths

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GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPA Funds Environmental Justice Project in Springfield, Mass.; Creation of Model Nail Salon Aims to Lessen Chemical Risks To Vietnamese Workers

The EPA held a press event in January to announce \$100,000 in funding to help build a model nail salon in Springfield, Mass., which will address the serious health risks from chemical exposure to Vietnamese nail technicians. The funding is being awarded under a cooperative agreement with the Pioneer Valley Project, Inc., a multi-racial community organizing group working to improve quality of life and environment in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts.

The \$100,000 in funding is being distributed over three years under the EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, which was established in 2003 to help community-based organizations work to improve the environment in communities that are disproportionately burdened by environmental or health hazards. The Pioneer Valley Project is one of two organizations in New England and one of 30 organizations nationally that received the funding to support environmental justice activities through this program.

Nail technicians often work 10-12 hours in poorly ventilated rooms with hazardous and volatile chemicals. Common health ailments associated with these chemicals range from skin

irritation and fungal, bacterial and viral infections to respiratory problems like asthma. Potential long-term exposure risks include damage to the nervous system, reproductive disorders and even cancer.

Vietnamese-owned nail salons are

at the Vietnamese American Civic Association in Springfield, Mass. "This funding for the Pioneer Valley Project will help to improve the health of many Vietnamese nail salon workers and their families throughout the area."

"This is an exciting opportunity for the community, health care providers, state regulators and other partners to work collaboratively to address the environmental and public health concerns of Vietnamese nail salon workers potentially exposed to the hazardous chemicals found in nail care products," said Barry E. Hill, director of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice in Washington, D.C.

The funding will help project partners at the Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Technical Education Center build a model nail salon, featuring safe and affordable chemical management and reduction practices. The model salon will be used to provide hands-on training for the Vietnamese nail community. The Pioneer Valley Project will: develop culturally-appropriate training materials for salon workers; create educational programs on chemical risk protection; and teach health care providers that service the Vietnamese community how to identify and treat symptoms of chemical exposure.

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Presenting check to partners on nail salon project

a major source of employment for low-income Vietnamese women in the Springfield area, with an estimated 300 salons in and around Springfield. Roughly 50 percent of the nail salons in Springfield are Vietnamese-owned. Nationally, Vietnamese salons make up an estimated 40-50 percent of the market.

"EPA focuses on environmental justice in New England to ensure that residents most at risk receive protection from health and environmental hazards," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England office, speaking

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nail Salon *cont.*

“The project is very helpful for nail businesses because it is important for them to learn about chemical safety and protect the health of employees, owners and customers,”

said Elizabeth Vo, the executive director of the Springfield Vietnamese American Civic Association.

“The success of these combined strategies will help resolve the emerging conflicts between the expanding population of Vietnamese

nail salons and regulators,” said Fred Rose, lead organizer at Pioneer Valley Project. “The funding will allow local nail salons to improve health and safety while ensuring that these businesses continue to thrive and provide jobs for the community.” ❧

EPA Seeks Projects for EJ Small Grants Program

EPA is seeking applications for the Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants program, and expects to award three \$25,000 grants through the program in New England.

Under this new funding opportunity, projects are sought from community-based organizations that address a community's exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. The deadline to submit completed application packages is midnight on Monday, Apr. 4.

For detailed information about the EJ Small Grants program, including a copy of the current application, also available in Spanish, and profiles of past projects, please visit the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice website at: www.epa.gov/oeca/ej/grants/ej_smgrants.html

Contact: Davina Wysin, 617-918-1020 or wysin.davina@epa.gov

EPA New England to Fund 2005 Healthy Communities Grant Program

EPA New England expects to publish the application for its unique Healthy Communities Grant program by Apr. 1, and applications

will be due by the end of April.

The Healthy Communities Grant program was launched in 2003, and integrates nine EPA New England programs to combine available resources and best identify competitive projects that will achieve measurable environmental and public health results in communities across New England.

The application and supporting materials for the Healthy Communities Grant program will be posted as they become available at:

www.epa.gov/ne/eco/uep/grants.html

Contact: Sandy Padula, 617-918-1797 or padula.sandra@epa.gov

EPA Launches Community Action for a Renewed Environment Program

In March, EPA launched Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) and announced that it expects to make \$1.65 million in funding available to communities nationally through the program during fiscal year 2005. CARE is a new program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks due to toxics from all sources.

Local and tribal governmental agencies, universities and non-profit organizations can apply for CARE funds to support collaborative

partnerships, develop a comprehensive understanding of all sources of risk from toxics, set priorities and identify and implement projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level. Individual award amounts are expected to range from \$60,000 to \$325,000. The CARE program is very competitive and one award is expected to be made for a CARE project in New England.

For more information visit:

www.epa.gov/air/grants/05-08.pdf

Contact: Dan Brown, 617-918-1532 or brown.dan@epa.gov

EPA Reopens Brownfields Grant Program

EPA announced a revised funding opportunity for Brownfields Training, Research and Technical Assistance Grants, and expects to award two to three proposals nationally totaling \$800,000. Previously, in September 2004, EPA issued an initial funding announcement, but decided not to fund any proposals received in response. The new deadline for applications is May 1.

Proposals are sought for training, research and technical assistance projects that focus on environmental and human health conditions in low-income communities and socio-economically disadvantaged communities unable to

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Earthday *cont.*

Day Festival will be fun for the whole family, with many educational exhibits, environmental demonstrations and entertainment. Ride the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority bus for free from Kennedy Plaza to the Zoo and receive free zoo admission on the day of the festival. Earth Day in Rhode Island is a partnership of the Earth Day RI organization, The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Roger Williams Park Zoo, and is supported through generous contributions from many businesses.

Vermont

Creating a Backyard Haven for Butterflies, Birds and Other Beneficials Seminar
Apr. 23 in Burlington
Join gardening enthusiast and learn

how to create a landscape that will invite wildlife into your backyard and add a whole new dimension to your gardening. Tips on planning your landscape to attract and support wildlife needs will be covered. In addition, each participant will plant seeds to take home and start luring some wild neighbors to his/her garden. Contact Gardener's Supply at 802-660-3505 or cathya@gardeners.com

If your community is not listed above, or if you would like to find out about other events going on in your community, there are two searchable lists of Earth Day events available online at:

<http://earthday.environlink.org/> or www.earthday.net

Besides encouraging EPA staff to participate in Earth Day events in their own communities, EPA New England is sponsoring several events for employees in April. The annual Green

Expo, a vendor fair featuring environmentally preferable products and services, including several minority and women-owned businesses, will take place on Thursday, Apr. 14, from 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. at EPA's Boston office. A week later, on Apr. 21, EPA New England will host its annual Environmental Merit Awards Ceremony at Faneuil Hall, which honors individual, business and government environmental protection efforts in New England, including efforts to advance environmental justice. Lastly, EPA New England is proud to recognize Megan Larcom, a junior at Middletown High School in Rhode Island, who received one of 10 national President's Environmental Youth Awards for a project she launched to teach fourth-grade students about renewable and nonrenewable resources. Larcom has been invited to attend a ceremony at the White House on Earth Day to receive the award from the President. ☞

Maine *cont.*

at the facility. EPA also contended that MMA failed to obtain a permit for a new spray-painting booth installed in 2000. In addition to the air violations, EPA found violations of state and federal hazardous waste laws at the facility.

MMA's failure to obtain valid air emissions licenses resulted in the illegal release of environmentally significant air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds, which contribute to ground-level ozone, or smog. Smog is known to cause irritation of the respiratory system, leading to coughing and asthma, especially among children and other sensitive populations. MMA's operation without a license also

hindered the state's ability to meet its air quality standards, as the illegal emissions are unaccounted for in Maine's State Implementation Plan. Since Limestone is located in an ozone transport region, Maine's SIP must limit ozone in that area.

The reduction in energy as a result of the second SEP is estimated to be 3,538 kilowatt-hours per year.

To settle the case, MMA agreed to a \$23,000 cash penalty, and to provide an additional \$82,900 in funding for two environmentally beneficial projects, known as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). The first SEP requires MMA to retrofit eleven diesel-powered vehicles with diesel oxidation catalyst kits, which will result in a 40 percent reduction of air pollutants and will cost the authority \$20,900, or \$1,900 per vehicle. MMA also agreed to replace existing lighting with energy efficient fixtures in two of its buildings for a cost of \$62,000. The reduction in energy as a result of the second SEP is estimated to be 3,538 kilowatt-hours per year.☞

EPA Enforcement Secures Cleanups Worth a Record \$4.8 Billion and Will Stop One Billion Pounds of Pollution

EPA enforcement actions concluded in fiscal year (FY) 2004 will reduce a projected one billion pounds of pollution and require cleanups estimated to total a record \$4.8 billion—significant increases from last year. Almost every other annual measure of the agency’s enforcement and compliance activity—such as the number of inspections (up 11 percent from FY 2003) and investigations (up 32 percent from FY 2003)—surpassed or kept pace with previous years, indicating continued progress in deterring violations of the nation’s environmental laws and reflecting an emphasis on environmental benefits and compliance.

“EPA’s enforcement strategy is focused on what matters most: achieving real environmental improvements that benefit everyone,” said Tom Skinner, EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “We are getting significant, real-world pollution reductions through mechanisms like injunctive relief—pushing companies to install more effective pollution controls—and supplemental environmental projects, which improve the environment and public health both nationwide and close to home.”

In addition to the record environmental benefit and cleanup figures resulting from agency actions during FY 2004, EPA estimates that 3.4 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and sediment and 9.5 million cubic yards of groundwater will be cleaned up, 1,300 acres of wetlands will be protected and the drinking water of 4 million Americans will comply with EPA standards. Of the 4,257 cases concluded by EPA in FY 2004, 83

percent resulted in actions to bring facilities into compliance with environmental laws.

Each fiscal year, EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance compiles a range of data

to track national environmental results and enforcement and compliance activity. Projected pollution reductions and the estimated dollar value of required *continued on page 8*

Submit an Idea for an Environmental Project in Your Community to the EPA’s SEP Library

Do you have an idea for an environmental improvement project in your community? Consider submitting it for inclusion in EPA New England’s Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Library. A SEP is a project that produces environmental or public health and safety benefits beyond those required by law, for which a credit may be granted by EPA to offset partially the penalty imposed in the settlement of an enforcement action.

When evaluating a proposed project for inclusion as a SEP in a settlement, EPA considers many factors. The most important factors are the public health or environmental benefits expected from the project and the relationship of the project to the underlying violation of the enforcement action. Other factors include such things as the project’s pollutant of concern, geographic location, impact on sensitive human populations, impact on sensitive ecosystems, type of project, estimated cost and length of time estimated for completion.

Appropriate SEP proposals will be posted in the region’s internal SEP Library, which can only be accessed by EPA New England employees. When violators ask EPA enforcement personnel to suggest SEP ideas for consideration in particular cases, the case team is able to consult the SEP Library for relevant SEP ideas. Inclusion of a project in the SEP Library does not in any way ensure that it will be implemented in an EPA New England enforcement case, only that it will be available for consideration.

To submit a project for possible inclusion in EPA New England SEP Library, please complete a SEP Idea Form available at:

www.epa.gov/boston/enforcement/sep/sepform.html

Before submitting an idea, you may wish to consult the following EPA New England and EPA Headquarters websites covering SEPs, which contain important guidance:

www.epa.gov/boston/enforcement/sep/index.html

www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/seps/index.html

For more information about SEPs, contact Amelia Katzen, in EPA New England’s Regulatory Legal Office, at 617-918-1869 or katzen.amelia@epa.gov

Enforcement *cont.*

cleanup, or injunctive relief, are annual indicators of results from EPA's environmental enforcement. Pollution estimates project the amount of pollution that will be reduced, treated or properly managed as a result of EPA enforcement actions concluded during the fiscal year. The information is used to gauge enforcement results and activity and guide program priorities.

New England Enforcement Program Highlights Negotiation of Supplemental Environmental Projects

EPA's New England enforcement presence has resulted in major reductions of pollutants. In addition to imposing fines, EPA has sought to remedy environmental infractions with Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) – targeted initiatives designed to benefit public health and the environment in communities where violations have occurred. In FY 2004, EPA New England negotiated SEPs valued at a total of \$11,081,291 as part of enforcement settlements.

In the Boston metropolitan area, \$6.1 million from two major settlements will bring significant clean-air benefits to city residents. Settlements with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and the Mystic Station power plant in Everett, Mass. require emission-reducing retrofits for 520 metropolitan Boston school buses, as well as the use of cleaner, lower-sulfur fuel. The settlements also require retrofits and fuel switches for the MBTA's commuter trains, as well as projects to facilitate the construction of bicycle paths. These settlements will eliminate hundreds of tons of air pollutants in a densely-populated

urban area. Overall, EPA's enforcement actions in FY 2004 will reduce sulfur dioxide by 1.7 million pounds, and carbon monoxide by 288,000 pounds.

EPA New England has also continued to aggressively focus on eliminating preventable childhood exposure to lead. Because so much housing stock in New England was constructed prior to the 1978 federal ban on lead paint, this issue requires ongoing effort in our states to ensure that landlords and property owners

follow lead notification laws. During the past year, 72 inspections were conducted around New England, bringing the two-year total to nearly 200. During this past fiscal year, EPA issued 13 enforcement complaints and 10 settlements against property owners, management firms and one construction firm that failed to notify tenants about lead hazards. Many of these cases involved properties where children had been poisoned by lead. In some cases property owners or managers had also failed to comply with state orders. In addition to seeking monetary fines, EPA has negotiated settlements requiring property owners to conduct testing and abatement of lead paint hazards in thousands of residential units in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire. ☞ More regional information from EPA New England is available at: www.epa.gov/ne/enforcementandassistance

In FY 2004, EPA New England negotiated SEPs valued at a total of \$11,081,291 as part of enforcement settlements.



The Condor Street Wild park in Chelsea, Mass., was created through a Supplemental Environmental Project

Q&A

Global Warming & Equity

Q. What is global warming?

A. Global warming is the warming that occurs as Earth's naturally-radiated heat is trapped by atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHG) such as water vapor, carbon dioxide and other gases. Without this natural warming, global surface temperatures would be much lower and life as we know would not be possible.

Q. What is human-induced global warming?

A. Scientific consensus indicates that modern industrialization, the combustion of fossil fuels and other human activities, have increased atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide by nearly 30 percent, and methane and nitrous oxide concentrations by about 15 percent. The rise in global surface temperatures as a result of these increases in GHGs is commonly referred to as human-induced global warming, or anthropogenic climate change. The following questions address the concerns associated with rising global temperatures as a result of human activities.

Q. How does global warming affect me and my family?

A. While uncertainty exists as to the exact degree and location of impacts, rising global temperatures are expected to raise sea level; change precipitation and other local climate conditions; alter forests, crop yields and water supplies; and affect the health

of humans, animals and many types of ecosystems. Health impacts associated with climate change include an increase in heat-related deaths; increases in respiratory illnesses as a result of changes in pollens and spores and temperature increases that enhance the formation and persistence of certain air pollutants; deaths, injuries, psychological disorders and exposure to chemical pollutants in water supplies if extreme weather events, such as storms and floods, become more frequent; and an increase in the risk of infectious diseases and vector-borne diseases that occur in warmer areas.

Q. Who is most affected by global warming?

A. Exactly how much risk is posed to human health by climate change is difficult to quantify in terms of numbers of increased deaths or illnesses. Global warming affects everyone, however, it does not affect everyone equally. Factors such as crowding, food scarcity, poverty and local environmental decline make populations in some developing countries especially vulnerable. Likewise, in industrialized countries, the demographic trend toward an aging population raises health risks. A June 2004 Report by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, "African Americans and Climate Change: An Unequal Burden," further forecasts a difference in the impact of climate change in the United States on people of various socioeconomic and racial groups. Though still uncertain, the regional effects of climate change on agricultural, animal habitats and fisheries productivity could increase the local prevalence of hunger and malnutrition (particularly in developing countries). In addition, low-lying regions, small island nations and developing countries are also greatly impacted by rising sea levels and severely burdened by the cost of both mitigation and adaptation.

Q. How does global warming affect the environment?

A. Rising global surface temperatures are expected to disrupt entire ecosystems. A projected warming of 2 degrees Celsius could shift the ideal range for many North American forest species by about 200 miles. If temperature increases are slow enough, species migration is possible. The uncertainty of regional precipitation changes threatens the future of many forests and the wildlife that depend upon them. A loss of biodiversity is a likely impact of increasing temperatures. Rising sea levels as a result of global warming, inundates wetlands and other low-lying lands, erodes beaches, intensifies flooding and increases the salinity of rivers, bays, and groundwater tables.

Q. What is being done about global warming?

A. Today, action is occurring at every level to reduce, avoid and better understand the risks associated with climate change. At the global level, countries around the world have expressed a firm commitment to strengthening international responses to the risks of climate change. The United States is working to strengthen international action and broaden participation under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. With EPA support, many states and cities across the country have prepared greenhouse gas inventories and are actively pursuing programs and policies that will result in greenhouse gas emission reductions. At least 26 states and Puerto Rico have developed their own climate action plans. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) has developed the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. There are currently 676 participants worldwide and 152 in the United States alone. In addition, at the national level, the U.S. Global

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Office Notes

EPA New England Staff Receive Funding to Support EJ-Related Research

Rhona Julien and Ian Cohen, who both work in EPA New England's Office of Ecosystem Protection, received \$100,000 in Regional Applied Research Effort funding to support their research in autobode shops in Lawrence, Mass., which ultimately aims to reduce exposure to harmful respiratory irritants. Julien and Cohen plan to determine the effectiveness of using innovative laser gun technology and training at autobode shops on reducing shop emissions and residential exposure to hexamethylene diisocyanate and other isocyanates. These chemicals are commonly used as hardening agents in automotive spray paints and can cause respiratory problems. Julien and Cohen hope to quantify a comparison of pre- and post-intervention for human exposure and set a protocol for reducing exposure to these harmful respiratory irritants.

EJ-Related Opportunities for Students

Apply for a Community Internship in New England

Five community-based organizations in New England received funding to support summer interns working on EJ-related projects through the ECO/EPA Community Intern Program, and students can now apply for these 14-week, paid internships posted at: www.eco.org/internships. Students will intern at the following organizations: Alternative for Community and Environment in Roxbury, Mass.; Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, Mass.; Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation in

Dorchester, Mass.; Iglesia Casa del Perdon in Waterbury, Conn.; and New Haven Ecology Project in New Haven, Conn.

The ECO/EPA Community Intern Program provides a unique opportunity for students to work directly with community organizations and experience environmental issues at a grassroots level. Since EPA's Office of Environmental Justice initiated this program in 2000, over 130 diverse students have participated in environmental justice projects nationally.

Intern at EPA New England

Two interns will have an opportunity to work on EJ-related projects at EPA New England this summer, and students can now apply for these 12-week paid internships posted at: www.eco.org/internships. The students will work on projects within the EJ and Urban Environmental Programs.



Lawrence High School students Ohilda Difo, Hamlet Nina and Prasanthi Yerramaneni (in back) and Mariseliz Heredia (front) with Karen White, administrator of the Science & Technology Academy

Lawrence, Mass., High School Students Participate in Volunteer Pilot Project

Four students from the Lawrence Public High School Science &

Technology Academy are participating in a pilot project to introduce students to environmental careers at EPA New England. Since January, students have worked with mentors on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the EPA's laboratory in Chelmsford, Mass., on projects related to chemistry, microbiology, facilities management and administrative support. The pilot project is a great opportunity for EPA to get help from energetic, bright and diverse students, while helping and teaching the next generation of environmental stewards.

Region Honors Wangari Maathai for Environmental Leadership

EPA New England's Black History Month programming in February honored Wangari Maathai, who received the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her contributions to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Maathai, who was born

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The ECO/EPA partnership provides many EJ-related opportunities for students.



EJ Profile

Environmental Summit in Lowell, Mass., Draws Diverse Crowd Interested in Learning About Indoor Air Quality

On Mar. 18, the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, Mass., hosted a free, seven-hour Environmental Summit for local residents that focused on indoor air quality. About 80 individuals from five continents attended the event, which included interactive presentations on indoor air quality problems and collaborative-problem solving. The Environmental Summit was the first of a series of outreach events planned in Lowell that are being funded through a \$100,000 cooperative agreement from EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Program.

Because the audience was so diverse, the event organizers wanted to draw on attendees' own experiences in dealing with indoor air quality issues. Representatives from the three partnering organizations that sponsored the Environmental Summit gave introductory remarks in five languages, including Portuguese, Khmer, Spanish, English and Patua, and offered to provide translation services to attendees. By making this effort to reach out to participants in their native languages, the organizers were able to engage residents in a discussion about their unique experiences and concerns.

"I am from Iowa and our houses are surrounded by cornfields, so I didn't understand how people could live in stacked houses and apartments," said Linda Silka, who directs the Center for Family Work and Community at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, as she opened up the conversation about the indoor environment before asking the

audience, "What about your houses and your environment growing up?"

Two participants from Ghana and Liberia said that their homes growing up were "just like Iowa," except surrounded by bush. Their houses were mostly in rural areas, made from mud and had open windows. Both individuals expressed concern about their exposure to the pesticide dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane or DDT, which they did not realize was dangerous.

Participants from Cambodia described the homes there as having open windows and no multiple rooms—just one big multi-purpose room. Traditionally, Cambodians take care to take their shoes off before going inside

in order to keep dirt and toxics out.

Other participants from Sierra Leone, Scotland and El Salvador raised concerns about household chemicals, indoor coal fires and industrial pollution entering the home, which opened the door for a facilitated panel discussion on "Learning to Ask Questions About Indoor Air Quality."

During this session, three panelists described their experiences dealing with chemical sensitivities and asthma triggered by indoor environmental factors and offered advice to participants.

Julie Villareal, program manager at the Center for Family, Work and *continued on page 14*



From left, EPA employees Shri Parikh, Delta Valente, Marla Hendriksson and Davina Wysin attended the Environmental Summit.

Publication Updates & Resources

Reports

Heavy Metal Content of Ayurvedic Herbal Medicine Products (December 2004)

EPA New England toxicologist Dr. Janet Paquin co-authored a Boston-based study published in the Dec. 15 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that found one in five Ayurvedic herbal medicine products from South Asia and available in Boston South Asian grocery stores contains potentially harmful levels of lead, mercury and/or arsenic. According to the study, users of Ayurvedic medicine may be at risk for heavy metal toxicity and testing of Ayurvedic herbal medicine products for toxic heavy metals should be mandatory.

Ayurvedic medicine is an ancient holistic system of health that originated more than 2000 years ago in India and relies heavily on herbal medicine products to treat illness and prevent disease. Metals such as mercury and lead are an important part of Ayurvedic theory, and possibly explains their presence in the herbal medicine products. About 80 percent of India's population uses Ayurveda and its popularity is increasing among Western countries. In the United States, Ayurvedic remedies can be obtained from South Asian markets, Ayurvedic practitioners, health food stores and the Internet.

If taken as recommended by the manufacturers, each of the 14 herbal medicine products with heavy metal content could result in heavy metal intakes above published regulatory standards. The herbal medicine products samples were tested by Dr. Paquin at EPA's regional laboratory in North Chelmsford, Mass. Ayurvedic herbal medicine products

are marketed as dietary supplements and are therefore regulated under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, which does not require proof of safety or efficacy. The authors of the study, led by Dr. Robert Saper at Harvard Medical School, concluded that the presence of heavy metals in Ayurvedic herbal medicine products and the numerous reports of associated toxicity may have important public health, clinical and policy implications in the United States and abroad. Abstract available at: <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/292/23/2868>

The Health Impact of Resolving Racial Disparities: An Analysis of US Mortality Data (December 2004), a study published in the *American Journal of Public Health* contrasted the number of lives saved by medical advances with the number of deaths attributable to excess mortality among African Americans between 1991 and 2000. Medical advances averted 176,633 deaths, but equalizing the mortality rates of whites and African Americans would have averted 886,202 deaths. Abstract available at: www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/94/12/2078

Spatial Scale and Population Assignment Choices in Environmental Justice Analyses (November 2004), an article from *The Professional Geographer* that examines the potentially confounding effects of selected spatial scale and population assignment strategies as applied to a study of excessive noise levels at a large Midwestern airport, finding that reported outcomes can vary significantly as a function of

methodological choices.

Abstract available at:

www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bpl/prog/2004/00000056/00000004/art00010

Not so Black and White: Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impact Assessments (October/November 2004), is a study of Massachusetts, published in the *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, that demonstrates, while controlling for the density and severity of ecological hazardous sites and facilities within every community in the state, that exposure patterns take a generally linear distribution when analyzed by race and class. The results reaffirm previous findings that low-income communities and communities of color bear significantly greater ecological burdens than predominantly White and more affluent communities, and also suggest that environmental injustices exist on a remarkably consistent continuum for nearly all communities. Available at:

www.sciencedirect.com

Hidden Danger: Environmental Health Threats in the Latino Community (October 2004), a report published by the Natural Resources Defense Council, finds that the large percentage of U.S. Latinos living and working in urban and agricultural areas face heightened exposure to air pollution, unsafe drinking water, pesticide, lead and mercury. These hazards can cause serious health problems, including: an increased risk of asthma and cancer; waterborne diseases such as giardiasis,

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Change Research Program coordinates the world's most extensive research effort on climate change.

Q. What can you do to reduce the impacts of global warming?

A. One of the most important things you can do in your home to reduce the impacts of global warming is to reduce the total amount of energy that you consume. Energy efficient appliances and light bulbs can reduce your energy consumption by as much as 30 percent. In addition, weatherizing your house to ensure efficiency reduces heating and cooling costs and decreases energy consumption. EPA's Energy Star Program makes it easy for everyone to be energy-efficient. Energy Star-labeled products use less energy and can save you money at your home, school or business. Transportation choices can also decrease energy consumption. Options include: combining trips; using alternative modes of transportation such as public transportation, bicycling or walking to work and on errands; carpooling; and purchasing fuel-efficient cars that get more miles to the gallon and subsequently decrease CO2 emissions.

For additional information on global warming and the potential impacts, visit: www.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming

More information about ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign: www.iclei.org

A full copy of the CBCF Report is at: www.rprogress.org/newpubs/2004/CBCF_REPORT_F.pdf

More information on EPA's Energy Star Program is available at: www.energystar.gov

Office Notes cont.

in Nyeri, Kenya in 1940, is the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree and the first African woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, an organization seeking to mobilize poor women to plant trees to curtail the devastating effects of deforestation and desertification in Kenya. In 1986, she helped establish a Pan-African Green Belt Network which has since exposed over 40 individuals from other African countries to the approach.

Maathai has combined science, social commitment and active politics to go beyond simply protecting the existing environment, to developing a strategy that secures and strengthens the very basis for ecologically sustainable development. She has incorporated education, family planning, nutrition and the fight against corruption into the Green Belt Movement, and subsequently, paved the way for grassroots development. Maathai's contributions toward achieving social and environmental justice are an inspiration to all who seek to protect human rights.

Upcoming Events

Massachusetts Environmental Justice Training

Apr. 13 in Lakeville, Mass., and June in Western Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, in collaboration with the EPA, the state Departments of Environmental Protection, Housing and Community Development and the Urban Ecology Institute, is hosting

free Environmental Justice Training in Lakeville, Mass., on Wednesday, April 13, and in Western Massachusetts in June. The training, which is designed to help participants understand environmental justice, is based on the curriculum developed by EPA's EJ Training Collaborative and Lois Adams, of EPA New England's EJ Program, will present several modules. Some of the training has been modified to cover EJ issues of concern specific to communities in Massachusetts, explain the state EJ Policy and plan a course of action to correct existing environmental injustices and prevent them from arising in the future. The training is targeted toward state and municipal officials and staff, community-based organizations and interested citizens. To register, contact Kwabena Kyei-Aboagye Jr. at 617-626-1165 or Kwabena.Kyei-Aboagye@state.ma.us

Growing Possibilities: Agriculture in the City

Apr. 15-16 in Boston, Mass.

The Food Project is sponsoring a two-day urban agriculture conference in Boston, Mass., on Apr. 15-16, which includes a workshop led by EPA New England staff. On the first day, participants can choose from two tours that highlight urban agriculture sites in the Boston area, including a rooftop garden and an island farm. The second day features keynote speakers and workshops on:

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EJ Profile cont.

Community at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, described how she came to determine her daughter's sensitivities to various things in the home, including burning wood in the fireplace, Christmas trees, bleach and other cleaning supplies, perfume and pets. Julie and other panelists stressed the importance of getting an allergy test if a chemical sensitivity or asthma is suspected.

Lynn Bernat, environmental program manager at the Coalition for a Better Acre, was the second panelist. Lynn suffers from asthma along with her sister, and their mother died from the disease. Bernat pointed out that asthmatics differ in their allergies. Bernat is bothered by dampness, for example, while her sister is allergic to feather pillows. Bernat, who leads an active lifestyle despite her asthma, said that there are two mistakes people with asthma make when it comes to exercise, "Either they ignore the condition and engage in physical activities without having an inhaler, which can be very dangerous, or they use [asthma] as an excuse not to exercise, especially as they get older."

The third panelist, Sereena Penn, who works with High School students in Lowell said she gets asked by students whether they will outgrow their asthma, but

unfortunately she has no sure way to answer that. Asthma can occur at any stage in life, and the allergies that trigger it often change over time. Triggers her students most often complain about include cold air, smoke, cockroach droppings and dust.

In the next session, "Ways to Improve Indoor Air Quality," Eileen Gunn presented information about toxics in and around the home and some safer alternatives. Gunn's motto is that "you don't have to be a chemist to analyze the chemical ingredients" in products. For example, products labeled "Poison" or "Danger: May be fatal on short exposure" are more dangerous than those that are labeled "Warning: Corrosive or toxic" or "Caution: May be irritating." Gunn urged participants to be particularly careful when using oven, toilet and drain cleaners, as

well as solvents and aerosols, and to avoid using chlorine-based products.

Other afternoon sessions allowed participants to learn about successful approaches to indoor environmental problems in the neighboring community of Lawrence, Mass.; the relationship between indoor air quality problems in Lowell to the city's master plan; and where to go, who to call and what to do about individual indoor air quality concerns. Local youth groups also presented an indoor air quality game and performed a dance during dinner.

For more information about the Environmental Summit and other upcoming environmental events being organized by the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell, contact Laura Buxbaum at 978-452-7523 x806 or laura.buxbaum@cbacre.org

There are two mistakes people with asthma make when it comes to exercise— they ignore the condition—or they use it as an excuse not to exercise.

GRANTS cont.

draw on alternative sources of funding for assessment, cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfields.

Eligibility is limited to governmental applicants and non-profit organizations, including public and non-profit private universities.

The full announcement is available at: www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pg/rta_0205.htm

Contact: Barbara Bassuener, 202-566-

Youth and Environment Grant Funding Available for Projects Focusing on Wastewater

2768 or bassuener.barbara@epa.gov EPA announced the availability of \$4.2 million in Water Quality Cooperative Agreement Allocation funds, a portion of which can be used to support Youth and Environment Grants. These grants are intended to introduce economically disadvantaged urban and rural high school students to various occupational opportunities in the water and wastewater arenas

through summer internships at wastewater treatment plants. Awards can range from \$2,000 to \$500,000. Eligible applicants include state governments, Indian tribes, interstate agencies and public and non-profit organizations. The application deadline is April 22. More information is available at: www.epa.gov/owm/wqca/2005_final.pdf

Contact: Barry Benroth, 202-564-0672 or benroth.barry@epa.gov

Office Notes cont.

remediation, farmers' markets, garden-based curricula, vermiculture and other urban agriculture-related issues. On the second day, Chrissy Foot and Davina Wysin, who work in the region's Geographic Information Services (GIS) Center and the EJ Program, respectively, will present "Using GIS Mapping and Databases as Effective Tools to Support Urban Agriculture Policy." The cost for both days is \$80. Limited scholarships are available. To register, contact Dominique Powell at: 617-442-1322 xt. 12 or dpowell@thefoodproject.org More information about the conference is available at: www.thefoodproject.org

Brownfields 2005 Conference

Nov. 2-4 in Denver, Colo.

Join EPA staff in Denver, Colo., for the leading educational and

networking event focused entirely on Brownfields. This annual free conference features interactive discussions, educational presentations, mobile workshops and plenty of networking opportunities with businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working at the enterprising edge of Brownfields redevelopment. This year's conference is expected to draw 3,500 participants and feature more than 200 presentations. The conference organizers are accepting suggestions for presentations and applications for travel scholarships through Apr. 29. Nominations for the Brownfields Phoenix Awards, which are

presented annually at the conference, are being accepted through Jun. 30. More information on presentations, awards, registration and travel arrangements is available at: www.brownfields2005.org



The Food Project is sponsoring a two-day urban agriculture conference in April.

EJ News

Seven Bulk Petroleum Storage Facilities Along Chelsea River Receive Draft Water Permits; EPA and Massachusetts DEP Seek Community Input

EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announced today that they have developed Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for seven bulk petroleum storage facilities located along Chelsea River (Creek) in Chelsea and Revere, Mass. to meet requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The newly issued draft permits replace expired NPDES permits for the following seven bulk petroleum storage facilities: Chelsea Sandwich, LLC; Coastal Oil of New England, Inc.; Chelsea Terminal; Gulf Oil Limited Partnership; Global REVCO Terminal,

LLC; Global Petroleum Corp.; Global South Terminal, LLC; and Irving Oil Terminal.

EPA extended the normal 30-day public comment period for draft permits to 60-days in this case, in order to increase the opportunity for broader community participation.

"We have worked long and hard to carefully consider the broad range of available information in drafting these permits," said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA's New England Office. "We look forward to doing the same with the comments we receive on the draft permits."

Chelsea Creek, which flows from

the mouth of Mill Creek between Chelsea and Revere, to Boston's Inner Harbor, is a Designated Port Area with a stretch of waterfront set aside primarily for industrial and commercial use. For centuries, it has been flanked by working industries which use the channel to transport raw materials and finished goods.

The proposed permits seek to address potential adverse impacts to sustainable fish populations, aesthetics and recreation due to the discharge of storm water from these facilities. Storm water accumulating within these facilities has the potential

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EJ News

Chelsea cont.

to come in contact with contaminants found in petroleum products during the receipt, storage and distribution of these materials.

The proposed permits have been developed to control and limit the extent to which contaminants found in petroleum products can migrate into the storm water and from there into Chelsea Creek. The permits are an important component of continuing broader public and private efforts to restore the health of Chelsea Creek and Boston Harbor.

EPA extended the normal 30-day public comment period for draft permits to 60-days in this case, in order to increase the opportunity for broader community participation.

The new draft permits:

- Establish specific water quality and technology-based effluent limitations and monitoring requirements, including more stringent limits for contaminants like benzene, a toxic pollutant.
- Require each facility to update and maintain storm water pollution prevention plans and initiatives that will prevent the occurrence of discharges from activities and operations which could contribute pollutants to the water through storm water discharges. The facilities are required to make yearly certifications to EPA that it is keeping up with their storm water program requirements.
- Identify and control maximum flow rate for each facilities' oil/water separator to ensure that the water quality of the creek is protected.



Some of the fuel storage tanks that line the Creek

Public Information Meeting and Hearing

A public information meeting will be held on the draft permits at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Apr. 27, in the Music Room at the Williams Middle School, 180 Walnut Street in Chelsea, Mass. A public hearing will be held on the same day from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Public Comment Period and Information

The 60 day comment period for the permit begins on Mar. 14, and EPA will accept all written comments postmarked on or before May 12. EPA will consider and respond in writing to all timely comments. Comments on the proposed permit should be submitted to:

Neil Handler, Project Manager
US EPA, Suite 1100 (CIP)
1 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02114
or e-mail to handler.neil@epa.gov
or fax to 617-918-0334.

The draft permits and key documents underlying them are available for review as of Mar. 14, at the following four locations as well as:

www.epa.gov/ne/npdes/chelseacreekfuelterminals

U.S. EPA Records Center
1 Congress Street
Boston, MA 02114
617-918-1440

Boston Public Library
276 Meridian Street
East Boston, MA 02128
617-569-0271

Chelsea Public Library
569 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-889-8397

Revere Public Library
179 Beach Street
Revere, MA 02151
781-286-8380

Publication

Updates & Resources

hepatitis and cholera; and neurological and developmental problems. Available at:

www.nrdc.org/health/effects/latino/english/contents.asp

Ecological Sustainability, Environmental Justice, and Energy Use: An Annotated Bibliography (2004), this bibliography published in the Journal of Planning Literature brings together diverse literature that focuses on different facets of ecological sustainability, environmental justice and energy use. Inherent general themes emerge from recognition of the essential linkage existing between intragenerational and intergenerational equity. Abstract available at: <http://jpl.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/19/2/206>

Newsletter

Greater Boston Environmental Justice Network News (February 2005), is the second issue of the Services to Allies Team at Alternatives for Community and Environment based in Roxbury, Mass. The newsletter provides information about local environmental justice campaigns, grant announcements and event listings. Subscribe by sending an e-mail to: tomas@ace-ej.org

Multi-Media

A variety of environmental justice-related online resources for individuals and communities have been made available by the National Library of Medicine, including:

TOXMAP, a free interactive website that illustrates, using maps, the amount and location of certain toxic chemicals releases into the environment in the United States. The site focuses on the geographic

distribution of chemical releases, their relative amounts and their trends over time. Available at:

<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov>

TOXTOWN, an introduction to toxic chemicals and environmental health risks that you might encounter in everyday life, in everyday places. Learn about urban, suburban and border town health risks. Available at: <http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/town/main.html>

Household Products Database, provides information about the toxicity of products under your

kitchen sink, in your garage, in your bathroom and on the shelves in your laundry room. Learn more about what's in these products, about potential health effects and about safety and handling. Available at:

<http://hpd.nlm.nih.gov/>

Haz-Map, is an occupational toxicology database designed to link jobs to hazardous job tasks which are linked to occupational diseases and their symptoms. It is a relational database of chemicals, jobs and diseases. Available at:

<http://hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/>

EJ News

Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation Recognized for Winning National Brownfields Award

A community development corporation in the Dorchester neighborhood of Boston, Mass., was recognized this week for redeveloping a contaminated site and winning an international Brownfields award. Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

The Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation's (DBEDC) Bay Street Project, a \$15 million redevelopment project of the former 4.7 acre Boston Insulated Wire and Cable Company site, was one of 14 winners of Phoenix Awards, given by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to recognize innovative remediation projects across the United States and

abroad. The Phoenix Awards were created in 1997 to honor the groups that develop significant Brownfields sites across the country. The awards recognize innovative yet practical remediation projects, which bring blighted, old commercial and industrial sites back to productive use.

The Bay Street site was home to the Boston Insulated Wire and Cable Company for 80 years and then abandoned for 10 years before the DBEDC bought the site in 1994 and planned its redevelopment. A new building was opened on the site in 2002 which serves as the headquarters for Spire, a Boston-based marketing firm which designs, prints and distributes marketing materials from its two-story facility. Spire's new headquarters employs over 100 people, which includes some

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Dorchester cont.

entry level positions. Spire offers job training for local residents in this lower income area of Dorchester to prepare them for some of these entry level positions.

“This Brownfield project was a success because of the perseverance of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Coordination and the community’s support,” said Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of EPA’s New England office. “And the tenant, Spire, is now giving back by creating jobs in the community.”

Prior to redevelopment and reuse, contamination that was concentrated on a 1.1 acre portion of the site that contained a lagoon and a railroad spur had to be removed. Both the lagoon and ground water in this portion of the site were contaminated with lead and silver, volatile organic compounds, oil and grease. The railroad spur also contained lead, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH). Some of these contaminants are known to disrupt breathing or to be neurotoxic or carcinogenic.

“Our organization took over the

site because the private market simply was not working,” said Jeanne DuBois, the executive director of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation. “There were too many disincentives for private investors—from pollution to taxes to the high standards of the neighbors—but we were able to work with the neighbors, funders and politicians alike and, like a quilt, it looks better for all the variety.”

Financing redevelopment was a challenge due to site contamination, back taxes and liens, which made it an unattractive site for private developers. After the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation acquired the site, the city of Boston forgave \$1 million in back taxes. The \$15,720,000 required to complete the projects was creatively financed through a combination of public and private funding from more than 20 individual organizations, including \$800,000 from the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation itself.

“These awards are considered the ‘Oscars’ in Brownfield redevelopment,” said Don Walsh, board

president of the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation and a long-time neighborhood resident. “Other awards went to huge projects and, while relatively small, the Bay Street project was mighty in its assembly and impacts.”

Throughout the redevelopment process, the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation coordinated monthly meetings with residents in the neighborhood surrounding the site to discuss the project. The neighbors ultimately chose Spire as the tenant for the site because, among other things, it promised jobs for local residents and would create less truck traffic than some of the alternatives being considered. The opening of Spire caused a ripple effect in the community—other businesses have opened or expanded in the area and created even more jobs. Homeowners have also seen their property values increase.

The Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation was given the Phoenix Award at a reception during the Brownfields 2004 Conference in St. Louis, Mo., in September. A total of 14 projects from across the United States and one project in Germany were recognized.

More information about the Phoenix Awards is available at:

www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/phoenixawards

More information about the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation is available at:

www.dbedc.com/home.htm

More information about EPA New England’s Brownfields program is available at:

www.epa.gov/ne/brownfields/



Bay Street Project Before Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation’s \$15 Million Brownfields Redevelopment Project.



65 Bay Street Today. Redeveloped 4.7 acre parcel is new home to Spire Printing.

Office Highlights

EPA New England Hosts Training For and About Tribes

EPA New England's Indian Program Office recently held two series of events—one designed for EPA staff to learn more about two New England tribes, and one designed for tribes in New England to learn more about managing their water programs.

As part of EPA New England's celebration of the Native American Heritage Month in November, the Indian Program sponsored two tribal cultural presentations at EPA's offices. On Nov. 3, Wampanoag tribal members sang, danced and drummed during the second day of the annual Working Effectively with Tribal Governments Training at EPA's Boston office. On Dec. 7, Thawn Harris of the Narragansett Tribe told stories,

danced and played the flute at the EPA's laboratory in Chelmsford, Mass. Both events were opportunities for EPA staff to learn more about tribal culture.

Between Mar. 1-3, EPA New England's Indian Program also sponsored a series of Regional Tribal Strategic Water Planning Meetings at the EPA in Boston. The three days of meetings included a Tribal Retreat and program planning for tribal nations within the New England region to assist them in managing their water programs. Tribal representatives from seven of the 10 tribes in New England attended the three days of meetings. Highlights included discussions about environmental impairments and monitoring.



Thawn Harris dances with EPA staff during Narragansett cultural presentation

Tribal Training Online For EPA Staff

Working Effectively with Tribal Governments Online Training for EPA staff (<http://intranet.epa.gov/opptval/training/tribal/EPA/mainmenu/launchPage.htm>)

This interactive on-line training helps ensure that EPA's workforce is knowledgeable about the agency's responsibility to implement its programs in Indian country, as outlined in the Indian Policy. This training was developed from a classroom session offered by EPA's American Indian Environmental Office in 1998, with input from across the agency and tribal partners. The training is available to EPA staff only on the intranet. Contact: Jean Crocker, 617-918-1498 or crocker.jean@epa.gov

EPA's interactive training was developed with input from agency and tribal partners.



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207-287-2811

Massachusetts

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Tony Chaves, MA EOE
EJ Coordinators
617-626-1165
617-626-1009

Web Resources

EPA New England Environmental Justice Program website
<http://www.epa.gov/nc/steward/ejprog/index.html>

National Office of Environmental Justice
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/index.html>

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council
<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/nejac/index.html>

National Office of Civil Rights
<http://www.epa.gov/civilrights/aboutocr.htm>

External links disclaimer

This newsletter provides links to non-EPA websites. These links provide additional information that may be useful or interesting and are being provided consistent with the intended purpose of this newsletter. However, EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of the information provided by linked sites. Providing links to a non-EPA website does not constitute an endorsement by EPA or any of its employees of the sponsors of this site or the information or products presented on the site.